

Casuals lucky to keep record at Wycombe

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE W ... 0 : CORIN.-CASUALS 2

WITHOUT their goalkeeper for much of the game against Corinthian-Casuals, a team with an impressive record in their first few games, Wycombe Wanderers were unlucky to lose by an own goal and another, late goal, after some intense pressure by the home side.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; Worley, Blair, James, Holmes, Hyde.

Corinthian Casuals: Swannell; Turnbull, C. Banbury; Simkins, Robertson, J. Banbury; Jessop, Randle, Jacobs, Walsh, Dutchman.

Referee: D Copp (Hemel Hempstead)

Both teams started off at top pace with Wycombe in particularly aggressive mood in attack, though erratic in marksmanship in several smart raids in the first five minutes.

The young left-winger, Steve Hyde, in his first senior game of the season, was prominent for the home team with several promising runs and on one occasion he tested Swannell with a stinging, left-foot shot.

Then Swannell was called on to make another fine save from a powerful drive by Blair.

At the other end, Jacobs shot wide when he broke through on his own with only the goalkeeper to beat but Brown had to dive to stop another accurate shot from Walsh.

Wycombe should have scored when a high shot from Thomas bounced in front of the goal but Blair headed just over the bar.

AGAINST THE PLAY

Wycombe's business-like forward moves often looked like producing results but it was Corinthian Casuals who scored first, against the run of play, after 27 minutes.

When Dutchman centred from the left, the Wycombe left half

Gale, attempting to clear, only succeeded in banging the ball hard into his own goal.

When Wycombe retaliated, Hyde deserved a goal with a brilliant header from Worley's centre but Swannell was in excellent form in goal.

Then, as Corinthian-Casuals began to have more of the play, Gale atoned for his earlier error by stopping the ball on the goal-line after Jessop had run through the defence on his own.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Corinthian-Casuals 1.

Wycombe supporters called in vain for a penalty when James was bundled off the ball when he was about to shoot in the first few minutes of the second half.

KEEPER HURT

Wycombe's goalkeeper, Brown, was injured after six minutes, when he ran out to make a courageous save at the feet of Jacobs. He was taken off the field with his face heavily bandaged and left back Lewis took his place in goal with Gale moving back in defence.

With ten men, Wycombe redoubled their efforts and Holmes a god chance from a centre by Worley and then James almost found the mark with a long-range shot.

As Wycombe piled on the pressure, Fisher, running right up in attack, was injured in the goalmouth and then Blair almost ran the ball in. But still Swannell was in masterly form in the visitor's goal and one save—from Worley—was spectacular.

Most of the play was confined to the visitor's half but Swannell looked invincible and the Wycombe attack lacked thrust on the left where Hyde had had to fall back to fill the gap in the half-back line.

There were plenty of thrills as Wycombe continued to throw everything into attack and produce some sparkling football into the bargain. James almost scored with a fine header which Swannell just managed to turn away for a corner.

But just before the end, in a breakaway attack, WALSH scored again for Corinthian Casuals

RESULT.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0
CORINTHIAN C. 2

WYCOMBE TEN SHOW SPIRIT

Wycombe 0 C-Casuals 2

REDUCED to 10 men in the second half by an injury to goalkeeper Ken Brown, Wycombe Wanderers gave one of their most spirited performances for years, and were unlucky not to claim at least one of the Isthmian League points against Corinthian-Casuals.

In a fast, exciting clash the crowd often expressed their displeasure at the visitors' vigorous tackling. Wycombe had rather more of the play in the tearaway first half.

But Corinthians, with inside-right Randle the live wire of their attack, took the lead when Wycombe left-half Gale, attempting to clear a centre by Dutchman, crashed the ball into his own net.

Brown was injured in the first five minutes of the second half when he ran out to make a courageous save at the feet of centre-forward Jacobs. He was taken off with a severe cut under the eye.

Wycombe's 10 men played with such dash that play was confined largely to the Corinthian-Casuals half, with James and Blair conspicuous in a fast home forward line.

Corinthians were saved by a brilliant display from the goalkeeper Swannell. And in a breakaway attack in the last minute, inside-left Paddy Walsh scored their second goal with a shot that gave Wycombe's deputy goalkeeper, left-back Alistair Lewis, no chance.